

Martinez, F.D., Wright, A.L., Holberg, C.J., Morgan, W.J., and Taussig, L.M., "Maternal Age as a Risk Factor for Wheezing Lower Respiratory Illnesses in the First Year of Life," American Journal of Epidemiology 136(10): 1258-1268, 1992.

The authors of this study examined the incidence of lower respiratory tract illnesses during the first year of life in 1200 infants in Tucson, Arizona. The authors reported that the incidence of wheezing LRIs increased significantly with decreasing maternal age, whereas the incidence of nonwheezing LRIs was independent of maternal age. Infants whose mothers were less than age 21 years had an odds ratio of 2.4 (95% CI: 1.8-3.1) compared with infants whose mothers were over 30 years of age. Infants whose mothers were aged 21-25 had an odds ratio of 1.8 (95% CI: 1.4-2.3) and infants whose mothers were 26-30 had a risk of 1.4 (95% CI: 1.1-1.6). The authors conclude that "these results suggest that young motherhood is an important risk factor for wheezing lower respiratory tract illnesses during the first year of life."

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